

Atty. Dkt. No. LOCT1100
(028248-3001)

REMARKS

The restriction of claims 1-55 under 35 U.S.C. 121 is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that the claims have been restricted into an excessive number of groups. For example, the Group III claims are drawn to an adhesive composition containing the gem-diester of Group I. Similarly, the Group IV claims are drawn to an adhesive composition containing an epoxidized gem-diester of Group II. In either case, a search of one group would, of necessity, require a search of the other group.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement for restriction is respectfully requested. Alternatively, regrouping of the claims along the lines outlined above is respectfully requested.

In order to be fully responsive, Applicants hereby elect the Group I claims (i.e., claims 1-12) for prosecution on the merits. The remaining claims are retained in the application pending final disposition of the elected claims.

In view of the above remarks, prompt and favorable consideration of all claims is respectfully requested. In the event any issues remain to be resolved in view of this communication, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 15, 2003By FOLEY & LARDNER
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